

Shouting on Life's Roller Coaster

Text : Psalm 89

Introduction:

Reading Psalm 89 is a roller-coaster experience. The upward progress and emotional momentum suddenly turns downward at verse 38, but such is life. This Psalm teaches us to wrap our problems in praise.

I. Body:

A. Singing (vv. 1-37).

a) The first, long section of this Psalm is a song of praising God for His:

1. Mercy and faithfulness forever (vv. 1-2)

2. Power to be feared and revered.

a) Who is like Him? (vv. 5-8)

b) Who's done the things He's done? (vv. 9-12)

3. Might and Righteousness are His foundation (vv. 13-18).

4. He makes covenant with His chosen ones (vv. 3-4, 19-37)

5. SING Hymn #64 - All Creatures of Our God and King

B. Sighing (vv. 38-51).

1. Here the Psalmist expresses deep disappointments and amazement at the turn his life has taken.
2. These and similar things happen to all of us: trials, disappointments, and deep perplexities.
3. Illustration: Sometimes we get so that we are expecting the worst
 - a) It was Thanksgiving day, and the wife was cooking her first turkey dinner for the family. Before serving it she announced to her husband and their son, "Now I know this is the first turkey I've ever cooked. If it isn't any good, I don't want anybody to say a word. We'll just get up from the table, without comment, and go out to a restaurant to eat." Then she returned to the kitchen.
 - b) When she entered the dining room bearing the turkey, she found her husband and son seated at the table with their hats and coats on. Obviously they didn't have much faith in her ability to cook a turkey.
 - c) At times we are like that with regard to God. We have problems, we pray to God for help, and then - spiritually speaking - we put on our hats & coats, sit back and expect the worst to happen. When we don't have faith in Him; then we really don't trust him.

4. SING Hymn # When We See Christ

- a) Ofttimes the day seems long, our trials hard to bear,
We're tempted to complain, to murmur and despair;
But Christ will soon appear to catch His Bride away,
All tears forever over in God's eternal day.

Chorus:

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus,
Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ;
One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race till we see Christ.

- b) Sometimes the sky looks dark with not a ray of light,
We're tossed and driven on, no human help in sight;
But there is one in heav'n who knows our deepest care,
Let Jesus solve your problem, just go to Him in pray'r.
[Chorus]
- c) Life's day will soon be o'er, all storms forever past,
We'll cross the great divide to glory, safe at last;
We'll share the joys of heav'n - a harp, a home, a crown,
The tempter will be banished, we'll lay our burden down.
[Chorus]

C. Shouting (v. 52).

1. Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and amen!

2. Illustration: Worshiping God

- a) As a minister was leaving Beaumont, Texas, he saw a large sign along the highway calling people to acknowledge God. "Go and worship God in the church of your own choice," he read. He pulled to a stop in front of a red light. Another car drew alongside. A child's voice read the sign and said, "Daddy, what does worship mean?" The father replied, "It means to go to church and listen to the preacher preach."
- b) Could there be a more horrible definition? Worship - three or four hundred years ago it was pronounced worth-ship - means the acknowledgment of the worth that is in our God.
- c) Worship in heaven (according to Rev. 7:12) is described in terms of God's angels and sons falling before Him, saying, "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever."

3. SING Hymn #106 - Praise Him! Praise Him!

II. Conclusion:

A. What good is it to look back on life and recognize times where we could have lifted praise to God, but did not?

- 1. In Vermont a farmer was sitting on the porch with his wife. He was beginning to realize how much she meant to him. It was about time - for they had lived together for forty-two years, and she had been such a help, a very willing worker.
- 2. One day as they sat together, he said, "Wife, you've been such a wonderful woman that there are times I can hardly keep from telling you."

B. Might that story describe your relationship with God? Are there times when you "can hardly keep from telling" Him what a great and wonderful God He is?

C. This life is full of "roller coasters." There are ups and then there are downs. Deal with your problems in the context of worship. Take the approach of Psalm 89, and turn your problems into a praise sandwich.